

**Minutes of the Alconbury Weston Annual Parish Meeting
held on Monday 9th May 2022 at 7.00pm in Alconbury Memorial Hall**

Present: 7 Councillors, Vice Chairman, Parish Clerk, 4 members of the public

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

2 MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 13 May 2019 were confirmed as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman. There were no meetings in 2020 and 2021 due to Covid-19 restrictions.

3 CHAIRMANS REPORT (appended to the minutes)

The Chairman's report was circulated and noted

4 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

No report was received from District Cllr Gardener.

5 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

No report was received from District Cllr Gardener.

6 OPEN FORUM

No resolutions had been received by the Clerk in advance of the meeting and there were no residents present who wished to discuss any issues.

The meeting closed at 7.05

Parish Council Chairman's Report

May 2022

This has been a difficult year at times as Alison Benfield, our parish clerk formally resigned with effect from 31st Mar 2022 following a lengthy period of absence due to long-term illness. Our thoughts remain with her for what may be a difficult future.

Following a period using first Alconbury's clerk and then CAPALC ad hoc support, a new clerk, Alison Brown, was offered the permanent position with effect from 1 April 22. Needless to say, the lack of continuity in administrative support was felt on occasions.

The year started with a full complement of councillors, but personal circumstances caused one to resign early in the year and despite advertising for such, a replacement did not come forward. One of that councillor's roles was contributing to a working group investigating the possibility of a formal grouping of Alconbury Weston and Alconbury Parish Councils.

Discussions on the possibility of Council grouping continued during much of the year but agreement on some of the arrangements was not reached. It was therefore decided to put the subject on hold as it was unlikely to be implemented before the May 22 elections, so leaving the subject for the new councillors to work if they wished.

Speeding has remained a major cause of concern in and through the village. Use of one Speed Indicating Device (SID) on a rotational basis at the start of each of the four road entrances to the village has helped draw drivers' attention to the problem, but one device was not thought to be enough. Funding for a second device, together with the setting up of a 40-mph buffer zone ahead of each access to the 30mph zone, has now been approved.

Planning permission for significant new housing developments has sometimes been controversial, with the council campaigning successfully for the non-approval of proposals for a site behind Chequers Close, mainly for reasons of poor access.

Flood alleviation continues to be an active issue, and the council is now represented on a flood group comprising local residents representing both Alconbury Weston and Alconbury. The group has developed a strong liaison with the Environment Agency.

It is good that the White Hart is again running as the village pub; the council have applied for the building's continued registration as a community asset.

A Hornbeam tree has been planted close to the war memorial in celebration of the Queen's impending Platinum Jubilee. A suitable plaque will be placed on it at the time of the Jubilee weekend.

The Parish finances remain in good order.

I thank all councillors for their time and hard work during the year.

Bob Powley
Chairman,
Alconbury Weston Parish Council

9th May 2022